Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 HEW-08 AID-20 RSC-01 DRC-01 /056 W

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R 072312Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1882

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS UNICEF (LABOUISSE, HENRY)

SUBJECT: UNICEF

1. SYG WALDHEIM TELEPHONED ME AFTERNOON DECEMBER 6 TO MENTION HIS INTEREST IN EXTENDING THE CONTRACT OF HENRY LABOUISSE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR. HE EXPLAINED THAT LABOUISSE'S CONTRACT RUNS OUT IN JUNE 1974 AND THAT HE WILL BE 70 DURING NEXT YEAR. THE NORMAL RETIREMENT AGE IN THE UN BUREUBCRACY IS 60, BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT LABOUISSE IS A MAN OF ALMOST YOUTHFUL VIGOR AND FULL ACTIVITY. THE UNICEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND HIS CONTRACT FOR ANOTHER YEAR AND WALDHEIM WISHES TO GO ALONG WITH THIS. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION.

2. I SAID MY GOVERNMENT HAD FULL CONFIDENCE IN LABOUISSE AND WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH HIS CONDUCT OF HIS OFFICE. ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I RECALLED HAVING SERVED FOR TWO YEARS AS LABOUISSE'S DEPUTY DURING LATTER'S TENURE AS AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO GREECE. I REMEMBERED THAT TIME AS A PERIOD OF INTIMATE AND REWARDING PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION AND NOTED THAT OUR WARM PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP HAS CONTINUED INTO OUR PRESENT ASSOCIATION IN UN SYSTEM. I COULD NOT IMAGINE MY GOVERNMENT WOULD DO OTHER THAN APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL CONTRACT FOR LABOUISSE BUT I WOULD REPORT SYG'S APPROACH OFFICIALLY TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM ONCE I HAD A REPLY.

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3. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, LABOUISSE IS

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UNIVERSALLY WELL REGARDED AND HAS HIGH PRESTIGE IN UN CIRCLES. BENNETT
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: CONTRACTS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS

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